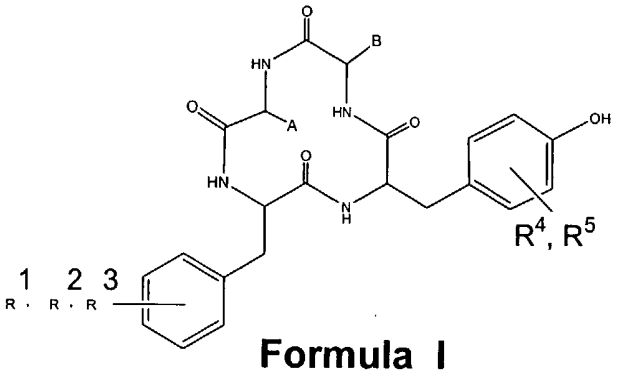
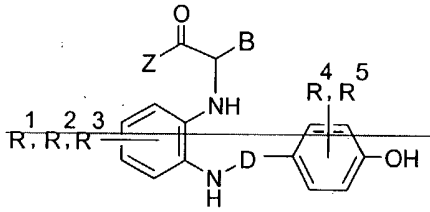
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

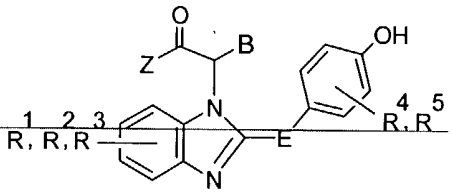
1. A compound of general formula ~~I, II or III,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



Formula I



Formula II



Formula III

wherein:

A is -hydrogen, -(C_1-C_8)alkyl or -(C_1-C_8)alkyl substituted by hydroxy;

B is -(C_1-C_6)alkylguanidino, -(C_1-C_6)alkyl(4-imidazolyl), -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, p-aminophenylalkyl(C_1-C_6)-, p-guanidinophenylalkyl(C_1-C_6)- or 4-pyridinylalkyl(C_1-C_6)-;

~~D is -(CO)-, -(CO)-(C_1-C_6)alkylene or -(C_1-C_6)alkylene;~~

~~E is a single bond or -(C_1-C_6)alkylene;~~

~~Z is -NH_2, -NH-(C_1-C_6)alkylcarboxamide, -NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -NH-(N-benzyl), -NH-cyclo(C_5-C_7)alkyl, -NH-2-(1-piperidyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(1-pyrrolidyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(1-pyridyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(morpholino)ethyl, -morpholino, -piperidyl, -OH, -(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, -O-benzyl or -O-halobenzyl;~~

R^1, R^2 and R^3 are, independent of one another, -hydrogen, -arylcarbonylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkoylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkyloxy, -(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, -carboxy, -OH, -benzoyl, -p-halogenobenzoyl, -methyl, -S-(2,4-dinitrophenyl), -S-(3-nitro-2-pyridinesulfenyl), -sulfonyl, -trifluoromethyl, -(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonylamino, -halo or -amino; and,

R^4 and R^5 are, independent of one another, -hydrogen, -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -methyloxy, -nitro, -amino, -arylcarbonylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkoylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, -halo or -OH.

Claims 2 - 4 (Cancelled)

5. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein A is hydrogen, $CH_3CH(OH)$- or $(CH_3)_2CHCH_2$-.

6. The compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein B is H_2N-C(NH)-NH-$CH_2CH_2CH_2$- or H_2N-$(CH_2)_4$-.

7. A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

Cyclo(-Gly-(p-chloro)Phe-Tyr-D-Arg-) [**1-1**] (SEQ ID NO. 5);

Cyclo(-Gly-(p-chloro)Phe-Tyr-(p-amino)Phe-) [1-**2**] (SEQ ID NO. 6);

Cyclo(-Gly-(p-chloro)Phe-Tyr-(p-guanidino)Phe-) [1-**3**] (SEQ ID NO. 7);

Cyclo(-Gly-(p-amino)Phe-Tyr-D-Arg-) [1-**4**] (SEQ ID NO. 8); and,

Cyclo(-Thr-(p-chloro)Phe-Tyr-D-Arg-) [1-5] (SEQ ID NO. 9);.

~~N-5-guanidinopentanamide-(2S)-yl-2-N-(p-hydroxyphenylacetyl) phenylenediamine [II-1];~~

~~N-5-guanidinopentanamide-(2S)-yl-2-N-(p-hydroxyphenylacetyl)-4-trifluorometyl-phenylenediamine [II-2];~~

~~N-5-guanidinopentanamide-(2R)-yl-2-N-(p-hydroxyphenylacetyl)-4-carboxy-phenylenediamine [II-3];~~

~~N-5-guanidinopentanamide-(2R)-yl-2-N-(p-hydroxyphenylacetyl)-4-(p-chlorobenzoyl)-phenylenediamine [II-4]; and,~~

~~N-5-guanidinopentanamide-(2R)-yl-2-(p-hydroxybenzyl)-5-carboxybenzimidazole [III-1].~~

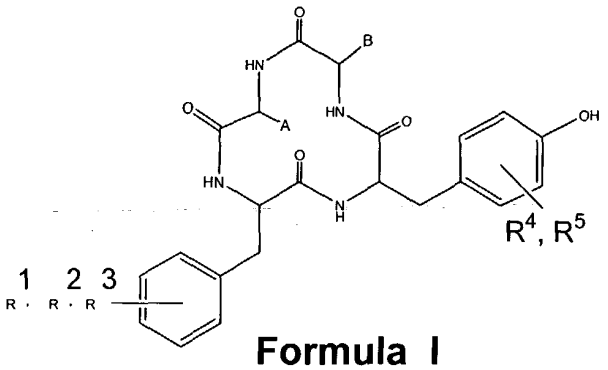
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with morphine.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with morphine.

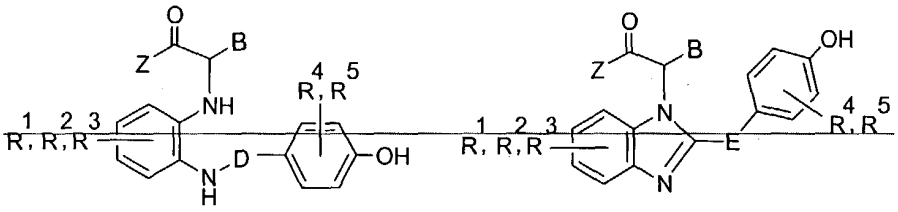
10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

12. A method of inhibiting induction of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) in an animal comprising the step of administering to the animal an effective amount of a compound of general formula I, ~~II or III,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



Formula I



Formula II **Formula III**

wherein:

A is -hydrogen, -(C_1-C_8)alkyl or -(C_1-C_8)alkyl substituted by hydroxy;

B is -(C_1-C_6)alkylguanidino, -(C_1-C_6)alkyl(4-imidazolyl), -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, p-aminophenylalkyl(C_1-C_6)-, p-guanidinophenylalkyl(C_1-C_6)- or 4-pyridinylalkyl(C_1-C_6)-;

~~D is -(CO)-, -(CO)-(C_1-C_6)alkylene or -(C_1-C_6)alkylene;~~

~~E is a single bond or -(C_1-C_6)alkylene;~~

~~Z is -NH_2, -NH-(C_1-C_6)alkylcarboxamide, -NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -NH-(N-benzyl), -NH-cyclo(C_5-C_7)alkyl, -NH-2-(1-piperidyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(1-pyrrolidyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(1-pyridyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(morpholino)ethyl, -morpholino, -piperidyl, -OH, -(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, -O-benzyl or -O-halobenzyl;~~

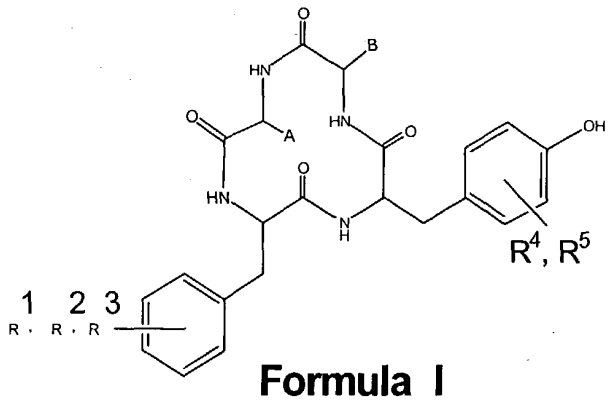
R^1, R^2 and R^3 are, independent of one another, -hydrogen, arylcarbonylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkoylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkyloxy, -(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl,

-carboxy, -OH, benzoyl, -p-halogenobenzoyl, -methyl, -S-(2,4-dinitrophenyl), -S-(3-nitro-2-pyridinesulfenyl), -sulfonyl, -trifluoromethyl, -(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonylamino, -halo or -amino; and,

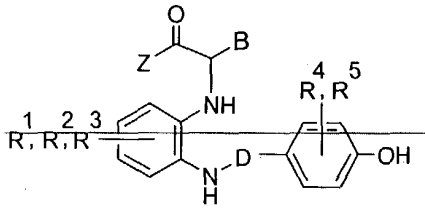
R^4 and R^5 are, independent of one another, -hydrogen, -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -methyloxy, -nitro, -amino, -arylcarbonylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkoylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, -halo or -OH.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is administered centrally or peripherally.

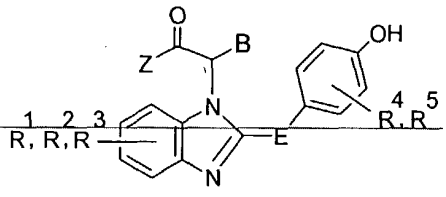
14. A method of managing pain in an animal comprising the step of administering to the animal an effective amount of a compound of general formula ~~I, II or III,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



Formula I



Formula II



Formula III

wherein:

A is hydrogen, -(C_1-C_8)alkyl or -(C_1-C_8)alkyl substituted by hydroxy;

B is -(C_1-C_6)alkylguanidino, -(C_1-C_6)alkyl(4-imidazolyl), -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, p-aminophenylalkyl(C_1-C_6)-, p-guanidinophenylalkyl(C_1-C_6)- or 4-pyridinylalkyl(C_1-C_6)-;

~~D is -(CO)-, -(CO)-(C_1-C_6)alkylene or -(C_1-C_6)alkylene;~~

~~E is a single bond or -(C_1-C_6)alkylene;~~

~~Z is -NH_2, -NH-(C_1-C_6)alkylcarboxamide, -NH-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -NH-(N-benzyl), -NH-cyclo(C_5-C_7)alkyl, -NH-2-(1-piperidyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(1-pyrrolidyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(1-pyridyl)ethyl, -NH-2-(morpholino)ethyl, -morpholino, -piperidyl, -OH, -(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, -O-benzyl or -O-halobenzyl;~~

R^1, R^2 and R^3 are, independent of one another, hydrogen, arylcarbonylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkoylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkyloxy, -(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, -carboxy, -OH, benzoyl, -p-halogenobenzoyl, -methyl, -S-(2,4-dinitrophenyl), -S-(3-nitro-2-pyridinesulfenyl), -sulfonyl, -trifluoromethyl, -(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonylamino, -halo or -amino; and,

R^4 and R^5 are, independent of one another, -hydrogen, -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -methyloxy, -nitro, -amino, -arylcarbonylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkoylamino, -(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, -halo or -OH.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the compound is administered centrally or peripherally.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the compound is administered in conjunction with morphine.

Claims 17 -18 (Cancelled)